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LETTER DATED 15 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Once again the Serbian insurgents in the Republic of Croatia have stepped up their attacks on the civilian targets along the Croatian Adriatic coast. Yesterday, completely unprovoked, the Serbian gunners have attacked the coastal town of Biograd na Moru, a settlement of no military significance and without military installations. Yet again the insurgents have used the Multiple-Rocket-Launchers "Orkan" [four missiles with cluster-bombs warheads]. The attack started at 1532 hours with the missiles, followed by howitzers and mortars, and resulted in five deaths [including two children aged 11 and 12 - both killed while on the beach] and seven seriously injured people. Material damage to infrastructure and family homes is considerable.

At 1315 hours, the enemy launched an attack on the surroundings of the city of Sibenik, causing material damage. However, following the attack three children - while playing - found one of the unexploded minelets previously delivered by the cluster-bomb warhead of the "Orkan" missile, which resulted in the death of two and life-threatening injuries to the third boy [all aged 13 to 15].

In the view of my Government, this represents a planned action of the Serbian insurgents pursuing the renewal of the war on the territory of the Republic of Croatia - just prior to the so-called "referendum" of the local Serbs for unification with "other Serb countries", and the conclusion of the mandate of UNPROFOR on 30 June. Once again, I have to state that the Government of the Republic of Croatia will try not to be provoked to enter into an armed conflict against the self-proclaimed Serbian leaders who are using all means to retain their power in the occupied territories, and to make the referendum a "success" for them.

My Government welcomes the statement by the President of the Security Council made at its 3231st meeting (S/25879), and calls upon the international community to prevent the negative consequences which will follow the so-called "referendum" that is to take place 19 and 20 June 1993. The Council has on several occasions reiterated that the "UNPAs are integral parts of the territory of the Republic of Croatia", and it is the firm belief of my Government that the forthcoming so-called "referendum" constitutes an "action inconsistent with this", and thus unacceptable to the Council.

In the view of the expiration of the present mandate of the peace-keeping force on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, one has to recognize that there are only two options open for the Government of the hosting country: to accept the continuation of the mandate, provided that it is extensively amended, incorporates a precise timetable of action, the means of implementation and that it includes specific enforcement powers for the UNPROFOR in the case of non-compliance by the Serbian militants; or to decline altogether the further good offices of the peace-keeping forces.

I would ask for your kind assistance to distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative